

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
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INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
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UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0844

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CS
SUBJECT: VESCO DECLARATIONS

1. AN INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT VESCO CONDUCTED BY A MEXICAN JOURNALIST FOR MEXICAN MAGAZINE PROCESO WAS AIRED AND PUBLISHED IN COSTA RICA 20 FEB. FOLLOWING ARE MOST IMPORTANT VESCO DECLARATIONS.

2. ON PRESIDENT-ELECT CARAZO'S DECLARATION THAT VESCO MUST LEAVE COSTA RICA: "I'M NOT GOING TO BE FORCED TO LEAVE COSTA RICA. IF MR. CARAZO WANTS ME TO LEAVE, HE JUST HAS TO ASK ME. IF I CAN LEAVE WITH ALL THE JUDICIAL CASES THAT ARE PENDING--IF THE COURTS ALLOW ME TO LEAVE--THEN I WILL LEAVE".

3. ON WHERE VESCO WOULD GO: "THERE ARE MANY, MANY COUNTRIES THAT HAVE ASKED ME, THAT HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD
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RECEIVE ME, THAT THEY WOULD LIKE ME TO GO TO THESE COUNTRIES, BUT IT'S NOT ME WHO HAS INITIATED SUCH EFFORTS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE CASE THAT YOU CITE, VENEZUELA, FOR ME THIS IS NEWS, I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY EFFORT THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN VENEZUELA. APART FROM THE UNITED STATES, WHICH COUNTRIES (I MAY GO TO) ARE NOT IMPORTANT".

4. ON PRESIDENT-ELECT RODRIGO CARAZO: "I IMAGINE THAT MR. CARAZO, BEING A POLITICIAN, HAS MADE DECLARATIONS BASED ON PRESS INFORMATION THAT WAS WRONG . . . SIMPLY BECAUSE THE PRESS SAYS THINGS DOESN'T MEAN THEY ARE TRUE. MR. CARAZO HAS SAID THAT HE WILL INVESTIGATE TO SEE WHAT THE TRUTH IS, AND THAT WHEN HE HAS ANALYZED THE FACTS, I AM CONVINCED THAT HE WILL ARRIVE AT A CONCLUSION THAT IS FAIR AND OBJECTIVE. AT THE SAME TIME, IF HE, AFTER MAKING THIS INVESTIGATION, SAYS THAT HE WANTS ME TO GO, AND LEGALLY I AM ABLE TO DO SO, THEN I WILL GO".

5. ON VESCO'S STATUS IN COSTA RICA: "I AM A RESIDENT AND AM QUALIFIED TO REQUEST CITIZENSHIP . . . I WILL (REQUEST CITIZENSHIP) ONE OF THESE DAYS".

6. ON ALLEGED REMARKS BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN THAT THE USG WAS NOW VERY INTERESTED IN EXTRADITING VESCO: "TODMAN IS A FOOL . . . I ALSO READ THE PAPAERS, AND THE LAST I SAW WAS THAT THEY WOULD NOT TRY AGAIN TO EXTRADITE ME . . .".

7. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS WITH FIGUERES AND ODUBER, VESCO CHOSE TO TALK ABOUT THE CORRUPTION HE ATTRIBUTED TO RODRIGO MADRIGAL NIETO, PUBLISHER OF LA REPUBLICA AND RECENTLY ELECTED LEGISLATOR; JUAN JOSE ECHEVERRIA BREALY, CARAZO DEPUTY; JOSE MIGUEL UNCLASSIFIED

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ALFARO, LAWYER AND RECENTLY ELECTED 2ND VICE PRESIDENT; AND RODOLFO PIZA, OPPOSITION DEPUTY. ALFARO, ECHEVERRIA AND PIZA, VESCO NOTED, ARE LAWYERS FOR THE SEC OR LIQUID-

ATORS; THEREFORE, HE SAID, THEIR POLITICAL INTEREST IN VESCO IS TEMPERED BY THEIR PROFESSIONAL INTEREST TO MAKE MONEY. ALL THESE CASES, VESCO SAID, ARE EXAMPLES OF CORRUPTION.

8. VESCO ALSO MENTIONED THE JACK ANDERSON INTERVIEW AND CITED TRANSCRIPTS OF SOME OF THE QUESTIONS HE ANSWERED FOR ANDERSON UNDER THE LIE DETECTOR.

9. 21 FEB MEDIA CARRIED DECLARATIONS FROM ALFARO, ECHEVERRIA, MADRIGAL, AND PIZA IN RESPONSE TO VESCO. 2ND VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT ALFARO LIMITED HIS COMMENTS TO REITERATION OF CARAZO'S PROMISE THAT VESCO WILL LEAVE COSTA RICA. PIZA STATED THAT THEY WILL NOT SUE VESCO FOR HIS DECLARATIONS BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WANT ANY MORE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS TO TIE UP THE VESCO CASE AND THUS NOT PERMIT VESCO'S DEPARTURE FROM THE COUNTRY.

10. 21 FEB LA NACION EDITORIALIZED THAT ANDERSON AND PROCESO INTERVIEWS BRING THE PROBLEM OF VESCO'S PRESENCE IN COSTA RICA UP TO DATE AND "RAISE THE VESCO ISSUE TO THE POINT OF HIGHEST PRIORITY IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT".

11. TEXT OF PROCESO INTERVIEW BEING POUCHED.
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